Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Indian agricultural sector is the predominant employer in the country (>50%) with the contribution of ~16% to GDP. Amongst the many ills plaguing the agriculture sector, land holdings is one major area.

Current status indicates with ~47% total cropped area, small and marginal farmers occupy the disproportionate portion (against 86% farmers). In this disparity, tenancy reforms would benefit agricultural sector in the following manner:

① would lead to aggregation of holdings for production leading economies of scale

② Ensure security to tenants thus encouraging investments, adoption of technology, smart agriculture

③ Increase farm based income, thus positively impacting socio-economic indicators

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of rural households. (more 54% households in rural is agriculture based, NSSO)

④ Positively impact agriculture based primary industries (value addition sector) with increasing efficiency

⑤ Leads to greater food security, also exports

In this regard, NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of T. Haque provided the draft for the model land leasing Act, 2016.

Significance of the same:

① Tries to balance landholders and tenants interests and rights

② Ensures there is tenure security to tenants

③ Ensures landholder's right is safeguarded.

Nevertheless, there are some concerns with Act including lack of application by states, farmers hesitancy in adoption for which a body is set up to resolve the issues.

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2. Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSME) is one of the significant pillars of Indian economy in more ways than one:

→ more 20% contribution to GDP

→ around 45% to exports

→ employs more than 100 million people.

Nevertheless, there are several challenges MSME sector faces in the foreign trade:

① Lack of competitiveness - resulting from poor adoption of technology

② Lack of supports in terms of adhering to export standards (phyto sanitary) in terms of safety

③ Lack of awareness about opportunities ~~about~~ in foreign market

④ Lack of adequate transport facilities, infrastructure including last mile connectivity

⑤ High logistics cost (@ 14% overall) leads to inefficiency.

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(6) Lack of sufficient credit availability

(7) Lack of product innovation, process reengineering

(8) Lack of effective implementation of government schemes.

As one of the vibrant sectors that would increase India's overall exports, Government has taken following measures to address these lacunae:

(1) MUDRA - loan scheme especially for MSMEs

(2) Inclusion in Priority Sector lending of banks

(3) Active involvement of DPIIT, APEDA in handholding MSMEs on safety standards

(4) Dedicated freight corridors, Gram sadak Yojana to improve connectivity

(5) Changed definition to investment and turnover based to facilitate investments.

(6) CHAMPIONS portal to spread awareness

MSMEs could affect the trajectory of India towards its $5 trillion target.

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3. Inclusive Growth refers to the phenomenon of both increasing growth and also equitable distribution of the same across population.

The idea of inclusive growth seems more relevant now with top 1% of Indians holding 4 times more wealth than bottom 70% (oxfam).

On the other hand, Sustainable development goals (SDGs) aim at providing basic living standards to all people. Ex: SDG 1 - No poverty, SDG 2 - No hunger, SDG 3 - Health.

Thus, these two seem to be interlinked in many ways:

① SDG 1 and 2 - talk about removing inequality in terms of income and food, which is the main plank of inclusive growth

② SDG 3 and 4 (Health, Education) - would be directly linked ~~temo~~ to inclusive access to benefits of technology in these

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two sectors under capability approach of growth distribution

(3) SDGs addressing housing and urban cities are aimed at bringing poor in urban areas into the growth trajectory.

Ex: 18% of Urban population lives in slums (Census 2011), PM Awas Yojana aims to undo this, leading to both inclusive growth and SDGs.

(4) Climate change related goals is one of the significant component of inclusive growth as it affects poor and marginalized disproportionately.

(5) Gender equality in the SDGs is directly linked to one of the dimensions of inequality

Nevertheless, some aspects that do not come under SDGs like tribal rights, caste factor should also be considered in inclusive growth. Thus, as India aims at finishing SDGs in its earnest, it is in a way addressing inclusive growth

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4. Rules of Origin (ROO) refers to the principles in determining the national origin of a product and also the extent of content relating to same.

Evolved in WTO negotiations and several bilateral and multilateral treaties, ROO is a significant concept for the following factors:

① Address unfair trade practices, i.e., countries routing products through a treaty-bearing country.

② Helpful in framing commercial policies, like countervailing, safeguard duties

③ Protect the domestic industry from undue competition

④ Ensure consumer safety and protection against malafide products

⑤ Ensure effective trade policy in accordance with objectives, check over imports

⑥ For effective implementation of trade agreements

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⑦ Enables quick turnaround time at customs as the rules becomes clearer, eases administrative hussle.

This is also one of the reasons for India withdrawing from RCEP negotiations, a lax rule would be detrimental to the domestic producers.

In that regard, India has taken the following steps:

① Department of Revenue has realeased the Rules of Origin Rules clearly specifying the preferential and non-preferential country norms

② Guidelines to declare ROO in public procurement portals

③ As part of Defence Procurement Procedure emphasize has laid on more content from domestic market.

As one of the pillars of a vibrant foreign trade, ROO is significant to be established.

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5. Minimum Support Price refers to the price at ~~the~~ which the government procures from the farmers, calculated basis a host of factors including supply-demand, price parity between crops, international and domestic prices by the Commission on Agricultural Cost and Price.

Creation of an era of scarcity

Evolved in the 1960s, it aimed to address

① food scarcity - widespread famines and droughts needed government intervention

② Price rise in food products owing to droughts led to unaffordability

This led to government procuring from farmers at Economic Cost and distributing it to people at a much lesser price bearing the remaining as food subsidy

③ It also meant to encourage the farmers to increase production

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Current era of Surplus

With Green Revolution and subsequent advancements, food production crossed more than the amount needed to feed everyone in the country. In this era, MSP is irrelevant for the following factors:

1. Inadvertant consequences including non-diversification of crops, water crisis is looming large
2. Ineffective in supporting farm income as the reach is very limited
3. Hurdle in building a market resilient agriculture as this distorts price.

At the same, MSP can be considered relevant for the following factors:

1. To ensure food security to millions below poverty line
2. To act as a price signal to market so that farmers have a better bargaining power
3. Protect farmers against vicissitudes of market forces

Thus, MSP also involves key developmental questions for the country.

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6. Locust refers to a family of grasshoppers that produce in moist conditions and thrive well on vegetation. Amongst different species desert locust is the most potent in damaging the crops in India and abroad.

Recently locust spread from the Horn of Africa to Gulf countries and reached India via Pakistan. One of the worst attacks in the past decade, a link between this attack and Climate change can be drawn as follows:

~~Usual~~ More than usual Positive Indian Ocean Dipole

↓

greater warming of western Indian Ocean

↓

heavy rainfall in Horn of Africa usually rain deficit region (Eritreia, Dijibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia)

↓

led to moist conditions for breeding of locusts

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

↓

heavy westward wind draws ~~itself~~ locust to Gulf countries

↓

feeds on vegetation (from excess rainfall)

↓

Super cyclone Amphan in Bay of Bengal (its severity an effect of climate change) draws locusts further westwards

It can be seen that climate change enabled its growing and spreading. The harmful effects of locust attack includes:

① Heavy loss of crops – income and food loss

② Use of pesticides to kill locusts adversely affects crops and soil

This needs a coordinated effort across countries, India has been actively coordinating with Iran and Pakistan in this regard. Locust Warning Organisation under Ministry of Agriculture played an effective role in stemming the crisis.

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8. Patents referring to the intellectual property rights for inventions and innovations of industrial use is governed by Indian Patents Act 1947.

In this regard, India is also a signatory to WIPO convention and establishes a patent regime on par with global standards.

Patent regime in Health - Public over Pharmaceutical

① India actively adopts to TRIPS flexibilities that enable countries bypass patents to ensure health security in public interest (Doha Ministerial Conference of WTO) including using Compulsory licensing

② India has taken efforts to stem evergreening of patents - patents sought for incremental innovations in pharma sector

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9. With more than 15000 kms, India shares land border with 7 countries, Bangladesh being the largest. Border management is ~~not~~ one of the key pillars in national security.

The current situation of border management

① Employment of multiple forces
- Army
- Border Security Force (across Pakistan, China)
- Assam Rifles (across Bhutan, Myanmar)
- Indo-Tibetan Border Force (across China)
- Gorkha Regiment (across Nepal)

② Involvement of multiple agencies
- Intelligence Bureau
- RAW

③ Involvement of two ministries
- Ministry of Defence
- Home Ministry

Need to have one-border - one force

There are several calls to have one force

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manning the border:

1. Unity of Command leads to swift action and decision making
2. Strengthening command against neighbours
   Ex: China has a unified force across its borders
3. Brings in efficient surveillance and intelligence
4. Easy to redeploy wherever needed
5. Ensure uniform training and development
6. Brings in more synergy across different terrains
7. Cooperation from local people would become easier
8. Better understanding and motivation for the forces, develops a holistic perspective.

With recent border issues including the western China border, Nepal at Kalapani, there is need to consider this idea. This would lead to better border infrastructure as sought in Shekatkar Committee

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10. India faces a multitude of challenges at its borders spread across more than 15000 kms on land and 7000 kms on water. Some of them include border demarcation, smuggling, illegal immigration, piracy.

The current system of frontier management

① Scattered across ministeries and departments Ex: Narcotics handled by Home Ministry, border surveillance by the Defence Ministry

② Ineffective coordination between these institutions leading to delayed decision making, inefficient tackling of crimes

③ Offices across different departments not able to communicate and respond effectively - lack of comprehensive engagement with the issue

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In this context, an Indian Frontier Administrative Service could benefit in the following ways:

① As link officers, they would connect different intelligence and provide for quick decision making

② Effective engagement with different aspects of border issues, with increasing scope of issues

③ Specially trained expertise brought to strengthen response

Nevertheless, some of the challenges in the same includes:

① Lack of specialization in any one issue leads shallows responses.

Ex: Illegal immigration ~~ref~~ requires, foreign policy, internal security, border management expertise

② Difficult to monitor, handle the officers spread across different ministries.

With increasing scale and scope of issues affecting the border, such a force can be considered

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Q. Agriculture in India is a highly regulated market with several aspects including price, inputs (fertilizers, power), mandis under different rules. In order to achieve its target of doubling farmer's income and doubling agriculture exports, Government introduced several reforms.

The recent reforms include:

1. Promoting inter-state and intra-state trade outside of the mandis, reducing role of intermediaries
2. Abolition of state levies on agricultural trade
3. Promoting electronic market by the state governments, leading to better price discovery
4. Promotion of contract farming, enables farmers to assured market and price
5. Stocking limits rationalized - only on basis of price rise (for perishable and non-perishable) - strengthen investment in storage, cold chain facilities

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(6) Declaration of Essential Commodities to be heavily limited in scope - enabling free trading at other circumstances

(7) Compulsory agreement in case of contract farming along dispute settlement options
- protects farmers against unfair practices

However there are several challenges that are to be addressed to the above benefits could be accrued include:

(1) Agriculture being a state subject, it needs the active will of states on lines of cooperative federalism

(2) National Commission on Agriculture proposed one mandi for every 50km, but the current situation is around 1 for every ~460 km.
- As private sector also engages with small and marginal farmers scattered across the country through mandis, this

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would increase their transaction cost thus impeding investment

③ Contract farming provisions lack provision - for compulsory written agreement that would make it difficult for farmers to seek redressals

④ Resistance from intermediaries

⑤ District authorities may not be equipped to handle disputes from Contract farming

⑥ Lack of price information and hand holding to farmers would make him the weaker party.

⑦ Unregulated trade outside mandis may lead to lack of effective recourse for farmers

⑧ Not regulating stock limits may make it difficult to identify quantity of produce available during distress times

⑨ Lack of effective connectivity, infrastructure would inevitably increase cost.

Thus, there are several issues that need to be addressed before this reforms could be beneficial.

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13. Multimodal transport refers to transport of people and goods seamlessly through different modes:

Ex: recent multimodal terminal at Sahibganj in Jharkhand - has water, road and railways connectivity that enables seamless movement.

This requires multiple integrations across different modes:

As per NITI Ayog, multimodal transportation needs to:

① have integration across different computer systems of different modes to ensure faster processing of loading and unloading

② enabling transit-oriented development to ensures access to different modes

Ex: Integrating metro-rail and roads would involve parking spaces, pedestrian supporting roads

③ mechanization of systems across different modes including warehousing operations

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(4) Enhancing last-mile connectivity paving way to integration of roads with other modes.

Challenges associated with multi-modal transportation for India

(1) Lack of convergence across different schemes

Ex: PM Gram Sadak Yojana and Dedicated freight corridors should be considered as addressing a common objective thus increasing synergies between the two.

(2) Poor last-mile connectivity, transit-oriented development plans

(3) Lack of sufficient funding from the government, ineffective utilisation of capital markets

(4) Minimal private sector participation both in terms of investments and operations

(5) Poor technology adoption at terminals

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⑥ Lack of coordination across different ministries and states.

Some of the opportunities associated with multi-modal transportation includes:

① Increase inter-state, intra-state trade

② Increasing exports, as pointed out around 30% of goods either originate or are destined to hinterlands in foreign trade (NITI Ayog)

③ Bring down logistics cost to 10% from 14%.

④ Spur private investments leading to a multiplier effect

⑤ Schemes like Sagarmala (port led development) would ensure overall development of people concerned.

Infrastructure is one of the crucial pillars of an economy, as understood from unveiling of 'National Infrastructure Pipeline'. It has to be increasingly oriented towards multi-modal format.

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14. Indian labour in ~~In~~ the times of COVID 19 pandemic has seen differentiated challenges according to the nature of their terms of employment. with more than 60% informal employment against around 30% of formal within the organised sector alone, the challenges of unorganised sector which is source for more than 80% employment could not be imagined.

How COVID19 exposed the vulnerabilities

① Lack of social security benefits to informal workers - loss of income and medical expenses mounted

② Easy termination by the employers while formal workers were given notice and benefits

③ Has seen adhoc reduction in salaries

④ Lack of food security and housing leads to (portability of PDS limited)

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mass exodus to their homes

(5) Lack of effective grievance redressal including adequate state support

(6) Administrative apathy to informal workers exacerbated the crisis

(7) Ability for formal employees to work at home while the very nature of informal employees prohibits the same

(8) Lack of sufficient data about their number and grievances made policy support difficult

However, the informal sector also faced several challenges including:

(1) Lack of effective credit availability to restart and sustain business

(2) Lack of coherent policy support

(3) Supply-chain disruptions affected their input supply as they depend on just-in-time inventory

(4) Plummeting prices and raising input cost

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Nevertheless, COVID19 also presents an opportunity to rebalance formal-informal economy dynamics in the following ways:

① Universal social security benefits could benefit all workers

② would lead to increased formalization from the informal sector to enjoy the benefits

③ Bring in reforms like Integrated PDS, provisions for gig and platform workers in labour codes

Thus, COVID19 has given several opportunities despite the chaos. Envisioned a 'Atmanirbhar bharat' towards a more self-resilient economy.

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15. Gas currently occupies 6% of the energy basket, National Gas Policy envisages to improve it to 15% by 2030.

Drivers for a gas-based economy

① Relatively environmentally sustainable option compared to other fuels

② Increases energy efficiency, consequently reducing energy intensity

③ Domestic resources – availability of potential to increase domestic sources (from current ~40%), will lead to decrease in import bill

④ Economic and social benefits accruing out of it including increased accessibility

Challenges faced by India regarding the same

① Lack of effective infrastructure - including gas pipelines, logistics across states

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② Differential pricing system for every 300km increases the cost of gas with distance from the source.

Ex: Gas is more costly in Eastern states as its transported from western ports which receives the imports than in western states

③ Lack of comprehensive policy support from the government along with incentives

Ex: Steps to government sector more gas oriented should be undertaken.

④ Government regulation of domestic gas prices, leads to ineffective price discovery

⑤ Automobile and equipment manufactures should need to reengree their products.

Some of the steps taken by the government includes:

① Propelling implementation of City gas

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

distribution system on priority for domestic - CNG and transport - PNG

(2) Establishment of India Gas Exchange promoting market oriented pricing for imports

(3) Laying down of Gas Grids, especially North East Gas Grid, would increase penetration

(4) Ujjwala scheme promoting LPG for cooking fuel, one of the major success

(5) Transforming public transport in Delhi with hydrogen - CNG buses.

(6) Easing Hydrocarbon exploration policies with NELP

Moving to a gas based economy has benefits across different sectors - Climate change, poverty eradication, industrial efficiency. Effective implementation of measures would go a long way in ensuring the same.

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1b. Climate change has significant impacts across diverse sectors including marine and coastal ecosystems, and consequently coastal population.

Dangers to marine and coastal ecosystems

① Increasing acidification

② Increasing ~~surf~~ surface temperature
- both leads to destruction of marine biodiversity as they thrive narrow ranges of both

③ Eutrophication (algal bloom) from nutrient runoff from land

④ Increasing ~~oxygen~~ anoxic zones, low oxygen

⑤ Changing intensity of currents disturbs the heat circulation across oceans

⑥ Melting of glaciers brings in impurities to the sea

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(7) reduced primary productivity on the oceans

(8) destruction of coral reefs, mangroves

(9) threat of invasive species

Dangers to coastal population

(1) Sea level rise endangers habitat, population, coastal economy

(2) Major cities of the world are coastal cities including Mumbai, Chennai

(3) Reduced livelihood from fishing because of loss of marine habitat

(4) Nutritional security concerns as fish is an important source of protein

(5) Increase in storm surges, cyclones, floods leading to greater devastation

(6) loss of cultural and ethnical identities owing to habitat destruction

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(7) Threat to harbours and ports, thus affecting shipping economy

Several steps has to be considered specifically to address the vulnerabilities of coastal ecosystems and population including:

(1) Building biological barriers against salt water intrusion, storm surges by planting mangroves
Ex: West Bengal initiative

(2) International cooperation to increase commitments like the C40 mayors summit

(3) Building climate change and disaster resilient infrastructure

Protecting these ecosystems and populations has to be a top priority as they are the worst affected of climate change.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Natural ecosystems including forest, water are servicing mankind in different ways including basic provisioning functions.

It also acts as an efficient hazard mitigation system in the following ways:

① Mangroves in the coastal waters acts as a sheild against Cyclones, storm surges

Ex: During Cyclone Amphan, some thousands of mangroves was destroyed in Sunderbans, it also reduced the intensity of the cyclone

② Wetlands acts against salt water intrusion in the coastal areas

③ Himalayas in the north, a natural shield against cold airstreams from

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Central Asia that protects the crops in winter season

(4) Degraded lands and deserts acts as firebreaks for wild forest fires

(5) Natural ponds and lakes also address urban floods with reducing the volume of water flow in rivers

(6) Open spaces with sparse vegetation increases percolation of water

(7) Dense vegetation prevents soil erosion

(8) Oceans of the world absorb more than half of the world's heat

(9) Absorbing and sequestering CO_2 by permafrost, soil organic materials

In the light of increasing disasters resulting from climate change, thus enhancing such natural barriers needs special attention.

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18. Genome Sequencing refers to the mapping of DNA molecular bases (around 6 billion base pairs in an individual). It enables to understand the gene structure of an individual.

Its significance includes:

① Understand genetic diversity, genetic diseases

② Useful in medical diagnosis and treatment

③ throws light on the history and culture of a particular population.

④ enables to protect the genetic diversity

The challenges in scaling up genome sequencing projects include:

① lack of infrastructure including

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

labs, equipments, computer systems

② Lack of trained adequate manpower

③ Lack of sufficient funding as it involves huge cost to scale up

④ Lack of effective data protection regime as such data involves personally identifiable information

⑤ Inadequate policy support from the state

⑥ Apprehension amongst people leading to lack of cooperation

⑦ Inadequate research facilities to develop on the collected data.

India recently launched the IndiGen project aiming to map around 1,00,000 population.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. Internal security and external security of a nation are intricately linked. It is understood in war dynamics, that it is easy to attack a divided country as there will be several avenues to attack plus a lack of concentrated counter force.

In that context, cyber and transnational terrorism meaning computer-technology based and cross-country based attacks need attention.

This has close link with radicalisation and societal dissention in the following ways:

① Radicalisation

i) spread of extremist ideologies
- 'Lone wolf' attacks in UK, New Zealand
- 'ransomware' attacks on government sites in US

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

ii) Large terrorist organisations use this instead of a planned big attack

- IS sponsored attacks in India being thwarted by National security Agency.

② Societal dissention

i) Spread of Islamophobia across the world, especially Europe

- Recent knife attacks in France
- German political landscape fuelling such tendencies

ii) Increasing xenophobia

- Attacks in Bangalore against Bangladeshi migrants
- Assam protests against immigrants
- General prejudice against Kashmiri people

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Societal dissention $\xrightarrow[\text{leads to}]{}$ radicalization

Societal dissention quickens the process of radicalization which is also caused by:

① Raising inequality, unemployment

② Lack of comprehensive policy, international cooperation (internet being boundaryless)

③ Lax gun control regimes, relative ease of making weapons

Thus, cyber and transnational terrorism breeds on internal dissentions, by nature of it is very difficult to track and prevent such attacks. Hence, a addressing the root cause, of ensuring societal harmony would go a long way in addressing this crisis.

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20. Across the world, there is increasing sense of insecurity. With constant strife in Middle East, increasing 'lone wolf' attacks in Europe, china's dominance in East and South China Sea, the challenges are many.

Especially for India, the emerging security challenges include:

① Increasing illegal immigration from Bangladesh and Myanmar

② China's aggressiveness at the borders, as well as in the South China sea (India's majority trade passes through Malacca strait), also increasing dominance in neighbouring countries through Belt and Road Initiative (Nepal's inclination towards china in the recent months)

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③ Pakistan's attack (direct and proxy) at the borders which promoted India's Balakot strike

④ Maritime Security concerns with threats of piracy in the western Indian Ocean (Gulf of Aden and Red Sea), threatens trade security

⑤ Surrounded by nuclear powers (china and pakistan), imminent threat to the capital.

These security challenges present a pattern which is

that it requires a combined response of all three armed forces.

Ex: Pathankot strike involved both Army and Airforce

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In that context, setting up of Integrated Theatre Command (ITC) in Andaman and Nicobar - where the 3 forces jointly station and train is of great significance in defence strategy:

1. Enables to reap the synergy between 3 forces
2. Ensures a comprehensive response to any attack, like allowing the use of Cold Start doctrine.
3. Increases effectiveness and efficiency in military preparedness
4. Opportunity to synergise procurement of weapons and vehicles
5. Enables to remove any weakness, counterbalance on each other's strength

In that regard, ITC is an important reform. Nevertheless, India needs to strengthen the entire defence apparatus in the context of mounting security challenges.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2086)

Name of Candidate	Kowsalya Murugasamy		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng	Registration Number	409325
Center	Online	Date	20/08/2023

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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3	10	
4	10	
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6	10	
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9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
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16	15	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH.**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं **हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी** में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended	Strongly Recommended

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

For one-to-one mentoring session on this copy, call us at 7042691891 or send an email to appointment@visionias.in

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1. क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत में न्यायिक जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक नया कानून बनाने की आवश्यकता है?

Do you agree with the view that there is a need to enact a new law for ensuring judicial accountability in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Indian judiciary is envisaged as the fundamental guarantor of fundamental rights and bulwark of constitutionalism ensuring Rule of Law.

Need for a new law to ensure judicial accountability

① Collegium System of Appointment
- opaque, goes against basic principles of accountability

② Judicial overreach - violates the broader separation of powers enshrined
- Ex: K. Balu case of banning liquor on highways

③ Huge pendency of cases - justice delayed as justice denied.
- NJDG says 61 lakh cases and 4.4 crore cases pending in HC and

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Subordinate courts

(4) Judicial independence taken to the level of dogma

Ex: Sexual Harassment case against CJI - invoked independence

(5) Unbridled veto power in Basic Structure Doctrine - since Basic structure is not exhaustively defined yet.

Checks available currently

→ Open to Right to Information

→ e-courts projects focussing on ultimately reducing pendency.

Way forward

As Nehru envisaged, Our Judiciary has an active role in social revolution (Navtej Johar case, Menaka Gandhi case). But Accountability is sine quo non for public confidence

New law
- Consultative Appointments like in South Africa
- Judicial Restraint
- Certain Financial Autonomy

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2. भारतीय संविधान के लागू होने के बाद से मूल अधिकारों और राज्य की नीति के निदेशक तत्वों (DPSPs) में संवैधानिक रूप से सामंजस्य स्थापित करना एक कठिन कार्य रहा है। प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए।

Constitutionally reconciling Fundamental Rights with the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) has been a tough task since the inception of the Indian Constitution. Discuss with the help of relevant case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Fundamental rights along with DPSPs have been called the soul of the constitution (Ambedkar). It ushers in social democracy without which political democracy becomes meaningless.

Reconciling FRs and DPSPs constitutionally

① Shankari Prasad case (1951), Court held that all constitutional provisions including FRs can be amended.

⇒ put DPSPs over FRs

② Golknath case 1967, it held that FRs can't be amended

→ put FRs over DPSPs

③ The parliament meanwhile reacted to this by enacting 25th CAA 1971

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which considered Article 39 (b) and 39 (c) in higher pedestal than Article 14 and 19.

(4) In Kesavananda Bharti Case 1973, the court agreed to the above amendment

⇒ Also held that basic features in FRs can't be amended

(5) Parliament again envisaged to put all DPSPs over FRs, but the court declared that unconstitutional

Thus the current understanding stands closer to the grand and noble vision of Constituent Assembly as enshrined in Preamble - goal of a welfare state

⇒ the essence of it in Article 39 (b) and (c) minimizing inequalities and distribution on commons for public good, prevention of concentration of wealth is considered above Right to equality.

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3. प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) द्वारा किए जाने वाले कार्यों और भारत में नीति-निर्माण को आकार देने में इसकी भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the functions performed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and its role in shaping policy-making in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Parliamentary democracy is also rightly called Prime ministerial democracy (Ivor Jennings) because of the highly critical role of PM in the functioning of the state.

Functions performed by the PMO:

① Administrative functions
→ arranging for meetings with PM
→ coordinating across departments and ministries to keep tab on PM set goals.

② Citizen forum
→ has a 24×7 grievance redressal helpline to register complaints

③ Liasoning function
→ between PM and key stakeholders

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Role in shaping public policy in India

① PM's vision of cooperative and competitive federalism of "Team India" was shaped through PMO - carried forward by NITI Aayog

② Serves as PM's expert office - (roping in experts) - to view the Cabinet's proposals critically

③ It also engages with Min of External Affairs to shape our foreign policy - virtual summits

④ Our climate goals - Panch Amrit was also shaped by them.

Thus they are a critical functionary in ushering in the PM's vision of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas".

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4. भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC) की धारा 124A के प्रावधानों का पुनरीक्षण करने और उन पर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए नागरिक स्वतंत्रताओं एवं मानवाधिकार संबंधी चिंताओं तथा भारत की संप्रभुता एवं अखंडता को बनाए रखने और उसकी रक्षा करने के बीच संतुलन बनाने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Re-examination and reconsideration of the provisions of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) requires striking a balance between concerns of civil liberties and human rights, and maintaining and protecting the sovereignty and integrity of India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Provisions of Sec 124 A of IPC - the sedition law - protects the government of the day against disaffection or overthrow by inciting violence or of public disorder.

Need for re-examination has arisen as the SC recently put on hold all charges under it - as its out of tone with current social milieu.

Striking balance between civil rights and sovereignty, integrity of India

① Dismantles civil liberties and human rights

→ vaguely worded - room for discretion and misuse

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→ stringent bail provisions
→ Affects the individual life beyond judicial proceedings - passports taken back, not eligible for government jobs
→ Inordinate judicial delay makes the process itself a punishment
→ low conviction rates under the provision

② Sovereignty and Integrity of India
→ still not a matured democracy unlike UK or US
→ Secessionist tendencies Ex: the recent Khalistan incident
→ to maintain dignity of the state against abuse

But it does not augur well for the world's largest democracy to protect itself via such a provision. It has to come from empowered citizenry. As the Law Commission recommended, it has to be reconsidered.

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5. "ग्रामीण भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस पहलों की सफलता के लिए नागरिक भागीदारी महत्वपूर्ण है।" टिप्पणी कीजिए।

"Citizen participation is key to the success of e-governance initiatives in rural India." Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

E-governance initiatives like the Gram Panchayat Development plans on e-Gram Sabha, SWAMITVA scheme (property card) comes at intersection of ICT and governance.

Citizen participation - key to success of e-governance in rural India

(1) with the administrative machinery able to reach only so far,

⇒ it is citizens who take up the tail-end of implementation

Ex: Social Audit of MNREGA includes verification DBT transfers to beneficiaries

(2) A thoroughly need-based e-governance

⇒ citizens to be part of designing the initiative itself

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Ex: Door step delivery of documents by Indore municipality by engaging the local deliveries

③ An informed citizenry ensures accountability of e-governance

Ex: PDS in a rural village of Karnataka was found to be misappropriating which citizens understood through RTI. (e-filings)

④ Imparts a sense of ownership to the initiative

Ex: increased use of e-service centers in grama sabhas through wide awareness campaigns.

Recent instances of PMAY-G having many beneficiaries linked to same aadhar could be checked through Grama sabhas verifying the list before Executives authorise.

Way forward:

All e-governance initiatives should include a separate set of citizen-touch points to usher in a truly [participatory governance]

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6. आपके अनुसार आकांक्षी जिला कार्यक्रम अपनी शुरूआत के बाद से अपने उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति में कितना सफल रहा है?

How far do you think the Aspirational District Programme has been able to achieve its objectives since its inception? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Aspirational Districts Programme of Niti Aayog was envisaged to give a focussed attention to the selected poorly developed districts in terms of targets, support and coordination to improve the socio-economic indicators.

Achievement of objectives since inception

① Niti Aayog performance review indicates
→ reduced maternal mortality rates and infant mortality rates
→ increased access to sanitation and drinking water
→ frequent visits of ASHAs and health nurses

② The District Administrations were put on a competition to show

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

improvements

→ increased sense of ownership

→ responsive culture

where the programme lacked

① There were no set metrics/targets to say the district has fulfilled the aspirations

→ more underdeveloped districts could not be added

② Since it didn't involve any financial outlay, many backwards districts was short on resources

③ Risk of reversal of achievements once the monitoring stops.

In the year of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, this initiative aimed at bringing true Azadi for the millions of Indians. Active citizen participation should be envisaged to ensure sustainability of achievements.

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7. NGO क्षेत्रक को आगे बढ़ाने और लाभार्थियों के लिए आउटकम्स को बेहतर बनाने में प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है। उदाहरण सहित विवेचना कीजिए।

Technology has a crucial role to play in advancing the NGO sector and improving outcomes for beneficiaries. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Non-Government Sector, the vibrant front in reaching the unreached, comprises of NGOs, civil societies, trusts who play a vital role in achieving the welfare state goals of our country.

Technology in advancing the NGO sector, improving outcomes for beneficiaries

① Ascertaining the status of development

Ex: Pratham NGO uses digital-enable surveys and analysis to inform on the educational status of rural students

② Providing market intelligence

Ex: Tata Trust sponsored Social Alpha provides market inputs to farmers

③ Crowd funding NGOs like Ketto primarily use ICT to directly

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address needs of beneficiaries

(4) SHGs are tying up with e-commerce platforms

Ex: current Cabinet plans to use Meesho platform to market products of SHGs

(5) Creating an empowered citizenry

Ex: ADR uses social media, youtube to spread awareness about electoral scenarios.

Thus technology is a force multiplier when used with right intention and in the right direction.

At the same time, it has to be ensured that senior citizens, women and other vulnerable groups are provided adequate access (only 33% women used internet NFHS-5) and protection to address digital divide and privacy issues.

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8. तकनीकी और उच्चतर शिक्षा के लिए विदेशी शिक्षण संस्थानों के भारत में प्रवेश से जुड़े निहितार्थों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the implications associated with the entry of foreign educational institutions for technical and higher education in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Higher Education in India has a mix of government - IITs, IIMs, NITs and private players. with the GER of 35% there is a lot to achieve to fulfill SDG-4.

Implications of entry of foreign educational institutions for Technical and HE:

National Education Policy 2020 envisaged entry of foreign institutions in this sphere.

Positive implications

① Improvement in quality
- ripple effects in Indian institutions too

② Reduces our import of higher education
- students have choices at home now

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(3) Innovation and industry-academia linkage - dispersal of their culture here

(4) Improved competition ultimately benefits the society

Negative implications

(1) Inequalities in Education - due to high cost, suitability of candidates from fragmented schooling system

(2) Public good to a commodity - ethos of education being lost in competition

(3) Undue pressure on Indian Universities given that except few IITs, IIMs, none featured in QS world rankings

(4) Indianness of education - sociology culture of India being not passed on

Thus, India, needs to prepare and strengthen its fundamentals before we open up to foreign institutions.

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9. भारत और लैटिन अमेरिका के देशों के बीच फलता-फूलता संबंध भारत की विदेश नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग बन गया है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The flourishing relationship between India and countries of Latin America has become a critical element of India's foreign policy. Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Latin America, is the fulcrum of modern industries with its rich resource base, and India has been rightly focusing on this relationship.

Flourishing relationship - critical element

Recently, the External Affairs Minister visited 4 countries - Colombia and others.

① Oil resources - Venezuela has the largest reserves

② Lithium - the triangle countries of Argentina, Bolivia and chile, very significant critical mineral

③ Argentina has cultural connections where Tagore stayed for sometime - critical for our soft power

④ Indian businesses are investing and

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

opening up opportunities there

⑤ Experiments in governance like the conditional cash transfers would be critical for India

⑥ Important Global South countries

But several ~~mistakes~~ pointers that need to be ~~avoided~~ remember in this relationship:

⇒ continued focus - hitherto neglected to the third rung of diplomatic countries

⇒ encouraging people - people contact - via tourism, football to overcome the physical distance

India's philosophy of vasudhaiva kutumbakam stands tall in this relationship as we see beyond the distance for a fruitful relationship.

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10. ऋण-जाल कूटनीति क्या है? चीन की ऋण-जाल कूटनीति भारत के पड़ोस में भारतीय हितों को कैसे प्रभावित करती है?

What is debt-trap diplomacy? How does China's debt-trap diplomacy impact India's interests in its neighbourhood? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Debt-Trap diplomacy is where the countries are trapped by giving seemingly unconstrained debt flow to the level that that a sovereign default becomes a probability.

This is then used to get concessions or entry into the nation and economy.

China's debt-trap diplomacy in the neighbourhood

① SriLanka - impact on India includes,

→ loss of Hambantota port to china

→ loss of infrastructural development projects

- Affects our Tamil fisherman rights, Tamil community in the country

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→ vital maritime security challenges
→ repercussions on Indo-pacific policy

② Nepal, impact on India includes,
→ border security - new map showing parts of India in Nepal
→ through china's interference in Nepal politics

③ Bangladesh,
→ vital link for connectivity to North East
→ Smuggling across borders

④ North-East insurgency safe havens in the bordering could be used against us.

Thus, India needs to constructively counter these influence like in case of Srilanka where it assisted economically.
"Atmano Moksartham Jagadhitaya" - for our welfare as well as theirs.

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11. विश्व भर के विभिन्न संविधानों का मिश्रण होने के बावजूद, भारतीय संविधान अपने विभिन्न प्रावधानों के माध्यम से सामाजिक न्याय, बहुलवाद और समानता को आत्मसात किए हुए है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Despite being an amalgamation of various constitutions from across the world, the Indian Constitution imbibes social justice, pluralism, and equality through its various provisions. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar remarked that our constitution is made after ransacking all the constitutions in the world, since a constitution framed that late could not expect to have it substantially different.

Amalgamation of various constitutions

- American
  - FRs
  - Judicial Review
- British
  - Parliamentary form of govt
  - Rule of Law
- Irish
  - DPSPs
- France
  - Liberty, Fraternity, equality.
- Canada
  - Strong Center in federalism.
- Russia
  - Ideal of justice
- Australia
  - Freedom of trade and commerce.
- German
  - Emergency Provisions.

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Imbibes social justice, pluralism and equality through various provisions

① Social Justice

- FRs of Article 15 - prohibits discrimination on caste, creed, race, religion, sex
  Article 17 - Abolishes untouchability
- DPSPs - education and development for vulnerable section
- Article 330 & 332 - political justice to SC & STs
- Article 15(4), 16(4) - reservation in public employment & education
- Article 51 A - prohibits derogatory practices against women

② Pluralism

- Article 29, 30 - provides for preservation culture and identity, and minority institutions
- Article 25 - 28 - protects religious plurality

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- Schedule V and VI - protects tribal way of life, autonomy and ethnicity
- Article 371 - 371J - protects tribal traditions.
- Also protects linguistic plurality

③ Equality
- Article 14 - equality before law and equal protection of law
- Article 16 - in public employment

Thus, our constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, it represents our way of life, a transformative document that sows seeds of welfare state and social revolution. Above its a living document, that continuously adds to the principles. (Ex: Recent EWC quota injustice).

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12. हाल के कुछ घटनाक्रमों ने भारत में वैवाहिक बलात्कार को अपराध घोषित करने के मुद्दे को प्रकाश में लाया है। देश में वैवाहिक बलात्कार के पीड़ितों के लिए कानूनी संरक्षण सुनिश्चित करने के निहितार्थों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recent developments have brought to light the issue of criminalizing marital rape in India. Analyse the implications of ensuring legal protection for victims of marital rape in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Bodily autonomy of women is an inherent right, it doesn't goes into oblivion when the strings of marriage get attached.

Recent developments on the issue of criminalizing marital rape:

⇒ more and more women are coming out to reveal the abuse and rape undergone by them in their married life.

Implications of ensuring legal protection for victims of marital rape

Positive implications

① Uphold women's right over their bodies

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② from a culture of silent suffering to a culture of empowerment

③ Strengthens women's liberty - by presenting them legal protection

④ Societal maturity to respect nuances in rights and liberties

⑤ Ending oppression in the name of sanctity of marriage.

Negative implications

① As the solicitor General remarked, this could wade into sanctity of marriage

- Other laws like Domestic violence Act 2005, IPC to protect against abuse and rape.

② Separating the genuine from the misuse

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

③ Maturity of the courts and judges leave much to be desired in understanding nuances.

Ex: Judges proposed marriage between the victim and the accused in a case of rape.

Though societal changes can't be brought about through decrees, it is a first-step to empowerment as has been with many women's legislations.

It is in the progress of women that the progress of the society can be measured.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. "संघवाद के भारतीय मॉडल की अत्यधिक केंद्रीकृत होने के कारण आलोचना की जाती है, लेकिन यह राज्यों को पर्याप्त अवसर और स्वायत्तता भी प्रदान करता है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए।

"The Indian model of federalism has been criticized for being too centralized, but it also provides adequate space and autonomy to the states." Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Federalism is a form of government that constitutionally divides the powers of national and regional governments so that each operate in their independent jurisdiction (K C wheare)

Indian model too centralized

① Legislative sphere skewed towards Union (91 subjects now)

② Even in state sphere, Rajya Sabha or states can pass a resolution to surrender power
→ Bills reserved by Governor

③ Centralization of taxation powers and decentralization of expenditure responsibilities

④ Appointment of Governor

⑤ Integrated Audit, election, judiciary

Don't write anything in this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(6) Single citizenship, single constitution

(7) Destructible states (Article 3)

(8) Flexibility in Constitutional Amendment
- majority provisions by simple majority

(9) Assymetrical representation in Rajya Sabha.

Provides adequate space and autonomy to states

Federalism is a political contrivance to balance national unity with states' rights - AV Dicey

(1) SC held that federalism in India is not convenience, but a principle

(2) Constitutionally divided powers

(3) Post LPG, economic center has gravitated towards ~~center~~ states

(4) Rigidity in Amendment - provisions relating to federalism by special

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majority + ratified by at least half of states.

(5) Rajya sabha has equal powers in amendment, no joint sitting

(6) Independent judiciary.

As it is said that that our nation wasn't born in times of hope, but in the atmosphere of turmoil, it became imperative to have federal supremacy. Even now, the sucessionist tendcies continue.

But as envisaged by our PM, Indian's growth can be propelled by Team India centre and states, a new paradigm of cooperative federalism wherein both mutually dependent on each other to deliver good governance.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. भारतीय निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) में नियुक्तियों को लेकर उच्चतम न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय ने नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को मूल रूप से बदल दिया है और इसके संभावित दूरगामी निहितार्थ भी हो सकते हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

The recent judgment of the Supreme Court on appointments to the Election Commission of India (ECI) has fundamentally changed the appointment process and can have potentially far-reaching implications. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Election commission of India (Article 324) is envisaged to uphold the democratic legitimacy of our state through free and fair elections.

Recent judgement of SC on appointment process

→ Said, the intent of the Constituent Assembly was for Paliament to enact a law on appointment

→ Appointment by President was temporary provision

→ framed a committee of,
- PM
- LOP
- CJI

to recommend appointment until Parliament enacts a law.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Far-reaching implications

① Credibility and confidence of ECI
- from images of bias and partisanship

② Uphold the strength of democracy
- as people's faith in democracy goes up.

③ Vibrant Fourth branch institution to ensure checks and balances

④ Fundamentally change electoral politics - action against money power, MCC violations can be more sharpened.

But a lot to be desired:

As the 2nd ARC pointed out, ECI should have
→ an independent secretarial staff
→ financial autonomy (between

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2013-17, 6000 crores delayed for VVPAT)

to be charged on CFI

→ equality in security of tenure to CECs and ECs.

are needed to usher in a real fundamental shift.

Nevertheless, this is step in the right direction to strengthen the democratic edifice of our nation.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. वैश्विक बदलावों के साथ समेकन और अर्थव्यवस्था के खुलने के परिणामस्वरूप लोक सेवाओं के लिए विविध चुनौतियां उत्पन्न हो गई हैं, जिनके कारण कुशल सेवा वितरण के लिए उनमें समग्र सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Integration with the global trends and opening up of the economy has resulted in diversified challenges for the civil services, which require holistic reforms for efficient service delivery. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Civil services is the permanent executive who work at the intersection of policy making, implementation and service delivery besides being citizens' grievance redressal institution.

diversified challenges in opening up of economy and integration with global trends:

① Political - rising demands for transparency, accountability

② Economic - complex FTAs, protecting Indian producers and consumers against unfair practices (dumping)

③ Security - cyber security, increased access to drugs via dark net,

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

anonymity of cryptocurrency in money laundering, terrorism

(4) Social - protecting indigenous culture, languages in the face of globalization,
ensuring safety of women as they embrace modern work life

(5) National integrity and Unity -
secessionist movement abroad affecting our image and internal security. Ex: Khalistan movement in Canada and Punjab.

Require holistic reforms for efficient service delivery

(1) Karma Yogis with
- domain expertise and behavioural expertise
to face the multidimensional challenge

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(2) Breaking silos

- Leveraging collaboration and convergence

(3) Continuous learning - iGot platform to remain alert to new developments.

(4) Embracing technology cautiously

(5) Ease of Government service along with Ease of living

Example - Bangalore Police's recent initiative to completely transform their image as responsive and cordial beside effective through feedback mechanism from public is a case in point.

New age of administration requires professional, innovative and hands on civil servants working in the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda's Karma Yoga.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेहिता को बढ़ावा देने में ओपन डेटा क्या भूमिका निभा सकता है? देश में ओपन डेटा की गुणवत्ता और विश्वसनीयता सुनिश्चित करने में कौन-सी चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं?

What role can open data play in promoting transparency and accountability in e-governance in India? What are the challenges in ensuring the quality and reliability of open data in the country? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Data is the new currency with immense potentialities for transformation in all walks of life.

Promoting transparency and accountability in e-governance

① Role of informing

Adminstration - Recently data of Ayushman Bharat was used to identify loopholes in policy leading to fake beneficiaries

People - data on savings through DBT schemes (around ₹21 billion in central schemes alone promotes Accountability

② Role of better targetting benefits

- Data of IT department, Vehicle

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

registrations, Electricity payments - being used to draw out beneficiary list in TN free Transfer to women scheme. (Transparency)

③ Role in augmenting states' revenue
- through transparency in GSTN data on claims of ITC.

④ Role of effective service delivery
- Karnataka has a system of Application no. assigned to citizens which enables them to track the status online.

Challenges in ensuring quality and reliability of open data

① Quality
- silo data sets with no primary keys envisaged
- poorly designed data collection sets.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② Digital divide between rural and urban areas - in terms of internet, computer systems

③ No standard frameworks or centralized coordination

④ Poorly envisage future perspectives

Way forward:

→ National Open Data Enterprise (NODE)

→ India Enterprise Architecture

→ India Stack

→ Central coordinating Authority

→ Digital literacy and infrastructure

This will propel India to achieve the Panch Pram of a developed country.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. भारत में 'जीरो फूड' बच्चों की व्यापकता को कम करने के लिए मातृ पोषण को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

To reduce the prevalence of 'zero food' children in India, maternal nutrition needs to be made a priority. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Children are the most vulnerable section in malnutrition with 33% stunted, 19% wasted (as per NFHS-5). It is also estimated that many a children recieve no food at all.

Linkages with maternal nutrition:

→ Health of the mother directly affects the health of the newborn
→ impacts natural immunity

→ In the post-partum phase, nutrition provided to mothers is also shared with the children

→ One in 2 women in India are anaemic
→ leads to MMR (113), IMR (35)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Importance of breast-feeding in preventing malnutrition of children recognized by WHO.

What can be done:

① strengthen
→ NFS Act 2013
→ ICDS
→ Anganwadi centers
with funds and resources

② Posham Abhiyan app to be used identify particularly vulnerable children

③ Engage civil societies to bring in behavioral change.

It becomes imperative to fulfill SDG-2 zero Hunger.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. हाल ही में, केंद्र सरकार ने दुर्लभ रोगों के उपचार हेतु व्यक्तिगत उपयोग के लिए आयातित सभी खाद्य सामग्रियों और दवाओं को सीमा शुल्क से छूट प्रदान की है। भारत में लोक स्वास्थ्य के मुद्दे के रूप में दुर्लभ रोगों से संबंधित चिंताएं क्या हैं? इनका किस प्रकार समाधान किया जा सकता है?

Recently, the Central government exempted all foods and drugs for rare diseases imported by people for personal use from customs duty. What are the concerns related to rare diseases as a public health issue in India? How can these be resolved? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Rare diseases, as the name goes, affects one in a million population. Since its a minority disease group, no adequate research and pharma development is being done on these. Ex: Sickle Cell Anaemia

To reduce the economic burden of drugs and food cost of the people with these diseases, Govt exempted these from customs duty, (since India is a nascent market, mostly its imported)

Concerns related to rare diseases as a public health issue

(1) Communicable - though most of the diseases are NCD, some

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

are communicable.

(2) Some of the rare diseases are also generic affecting public health at large.

(3) Adds to the nation's disease burden, hence imperative for "Health ~~&~~ for All" (SDG 3)

(4) Ensuring Article 21 (Right to life and liberty) of these people

Ways to resolve:

(1) Promote pro-bono research in these areas - A framework for the same - where Govt supports basic necessities

(2) Secure favourable Intellectual Property Regime for these drugs to enable its manufacturing in

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

India.

(3) To actively engage CSR funds in addressing the financial hardships of this group

Gandhi's talisman of upholding the rights of even the last man in the line should be appreciated here. Thus, State should actively play a role where the private withdraws.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में यथार्थवादी और प्रभावी सहयोग के लिए, इस क्षेत्र से संबंधित विभिन्न देशों के प्रमुख हितों को स्वीकार करने और उनकी पहचान करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

For realistic and effective collaborations to take place in the Indo-Pacific region, there is a need to acknowledge and recognize the underlining intention of the various countries with stakes in the region. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indo-Pacific is the center of the new multi-polar world encompassing the entire Indian and Pacific ocean littorals.

Need to acknowledge and recognize underlying intentions

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. भारत और उसके पड़ोसियों के बीच एक महत्वपूर्ण संपर्क स्थल के रूप में स्थापित होने से पहले, भारत को अपने पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र की आंतरिक और बाह्य दोनों तरह की अंतर्निहित चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

There is a need to address the underlying challenges, both internal and external, in the North-Eastern region of India before it can serve as a pivotal connecting space between India and its neighbours. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

North-Eastern India - the fulcrum of multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural heritage of India, has potentialities in connecting India with its neighbours.

Need to address challenges

Internal

① Insurgences - disturbs peace, law and order, stability.

② Inter-group conflicts - the recent Kuki, meitei conflict in Manipur

③ Poorly developed - especially infrastructure

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(4) Very low emotional integration with India to play pivotal ambassadors.

External

(1) safe havens, funds and arms movements across borders

(2) Smuggling with neighbouring states

(3) Instability in Myanmar spilling over to our NE

Once these are resolved, they can play a pivot in connecting India with its neighbours.

Pivotal connecting space

→ India - Myanmar - Thailand Trilateral Highway

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal network

→ further connections with South East Asia - like Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam.

Thus, NE and its development has both internal and external dividends.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2091)

Name of Candidate	Kowsalya Murugasamy		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng	Registration Number	409325
Center	Online	Date	03/09/2023

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH.**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं **हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी** में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended	Strongly Recommended

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. भारतीय कृषि में जल के अकुशल उपयोग के लिए उत्तरदायी कारण क्या हैं? जल उपयोग दक्षता में सुधार के उपाय सुझाइए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

What are the reasons behind the inefficient use of water in Indian agriculture? Suggest measures to improve water use efficiency. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Indian Agriculture, at around 16% of GVA, is the biggest consumer of water in India. Very essential for food security (Article 21), but at the same time suffers from inefficiency.

Reasons for inefficient use of water in Agriculture:

① Water market distorted
→ with no pricing for groundwater
→ free electricity for farmers propels excess usage

has also resulted in crop distortion
- water guzzling crops grown in water scarce area
Ex: Punjab, Haryana - wheat.

has prevented means of efficient irrigation
- micro-irrigation has water efficiency of 80-90% compared to groundwater of 60-70%. (NABARD)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② State intervention is ineffective

→ use of Minimum Support Price to ensure efficient crop diversification lacking

→ promotion of micro-irrigation
↳ credit facilities

→ ~~wat~~ river linkages missing - reduced canal irrigation (though losses in evaporation, runoff)

Measures to improve water-use efficiency:

① Adequate crop diversification - pulses, millets

② Micro-irrigation becoming the norm

③ Crop choice based on agroclimatic condition
→ Precision agriculture

④ Farmers as energy producers - PM KUSUM
→ reduces negative externalities of free electricity

⑤ Effective price signalling through MSP to ensure assured return on investment.

With India facing acute water distress (NITI Aayog), it becomes essential to completely transform agriculture to really enter the Amrit Kaal.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. भारत में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) के तहत फूड बास्केट में विविधता लाने के सामाजिक, आर्थिक और पर्यावरणीय लाभ क्या हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

What are the social, economic and environmental benefits of diversifying the food basket under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Public Distribution systems (PDS) is the distribution of essentials including food grain via chains of fair price shops, covering almost 50% urban and 75% rural population ensuring food security.

Though currently only few food grains - rice, wheat, oil and few others - being given, there is a need to diversify this basket.

Social, economic and environmental benefits of this diversification:

① Social benefits
→ Healthy popuplation (Human Capital) → address malnutrition
→ Reduced morbidities leading to quality well-being, nutritional security
→ Address the acute - multidimensional poverty (16.4% of population, UNDP)

② Economic benefits
→ Reduced health expenditure

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

for both state and individuals

→ Targeted PDS ensuring cost-benefit way of taking care of the poor.

→ Reduced import bills by diversifying crop production in India

③ Environmental benefits

→ Crop diversification to pulses, millets - reduced stress on water, soil

→ Reduced fertilizer consumption - soil, land degradation prevented

→ Climate Smart Agriculture to be taken up - Aligning what we eat to to the climate.

Thus, there is need to include more nutritional crops like

→ pulses

→ millets

→ fortified food grains.

This would help us achieve nutritional security besides the current food security fulfilling SDG 2 and also taking care of SDG 3.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. क्या पशुधन क्षेत्रक को पुनः सक्रिय करना भारत के किसानों की संधारणीय आजीविका और आय में वृद्धि सुनिश्चित करने करने की कुंजी हो सकता है? अपने उत्तर के समर्थन में कारण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Can re-energising the livestock sector be the key to sustainable livelihood and increasing the income of Indian farmers? Give reasons in support of your answer. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Indian farmers are currently earning Rs. 8800/- (avg per month, NABARD 2020), and there is a concerted effort to double the farmers income (Ashok Dalwai Committee). One of the key recommendations, was to put the livestock sector in the center of plans.

Why re-energising livestock sector would help this:

① The Nabard survey indicated that,
⇒ majority of farmers earn their substantial income from allied activities
⇒ more profitable

② India has the abundant and the largest livestock population in the world
→ no. 1 in dairy production
→ no. 3 in fisheries

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

③ Concerted government efforts in strengthening the market-farm connectivity

→ Creation of Dairy FPOs,

→ Infrastructure development fund

④ Quality breed and inputs

→ Govt vaccination against diseases

→ Supply of inputs at subsidised prices

→ Research on breed improvement

⑤ Farmer led model - enormous success

→ AMUL, Nandhini.

Thus, reenergising this sector would help farmers move away from the

→ vagaries of monsoon in Agriculture

→ distorted price market in agriculture

and ensure a steady stream of income.

It becomes essential to strengthen the already existing government efforts to reach every ~~farmer,~~ to bring real freedom to farmers in this Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि आर्थिक सुधार के बाद की अवधि में उच्च आर्थिक संवृद्धि के परिणामस्वरूप संवृद्धि का लाभ हाशिए पर मौजूद वर्गों तक नहीं पहुंच पाया है, जिससे समावेशी विकास चिंता का एक प्रमुख विषय बन गया है? अपने उत्तर का औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Do you agree that high economic growth in the post-reform period has not resulted in growth trickling down to the marginalised sections, rendering inclusive growth a major concern? Justify your answer. (Answer in 150 words) 10

India witness a tremendous growth spell post the 1991 economic liberalisation period, now the third largest economy in the world. Nevertheless, we have the largest multi-dimensionally poor population (16.4%) and one of the highest unemployment rates.

↳ this has all resulted in a major concern for inclusive growth - where the growth reaches every individual and every geography of this country.

Growth has not trickled down to marginalised sections:

① SCs, STs and minority communities are the larger chunk in the poor and unemployed population.

② Initiatives like stand-up India scheme

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

hardly has 1,63,000 beneficiaries against the population of 16.6% (SCs).

③ NFHS 5 survey also indicates that
→ marginalised communities lack the most in nutrition - more stunted, wasted children.

④ Huge regional imbalances between these sections itself
→ ES 2017 - the cleavaged India.

But, while there is still a long way to go in fulfilling the basic necessities of many, we had some noteworthy achievements in the post-reform period:

⇒ lifted around 271 million population out of poverty till 2015, continually declining poverty

⇒ One of the largest food security scheme, health insurance scheme, RTE run on the back of the post-reform growth.

In our vision of a developed country (Panch Pran), is deeply embedded the idea of inclusive growth.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम (NCAP) के परिणाम का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। मिशन LiFE वायु प्रदूषण के मुद्दे का समाधान करने में NCAP को कैसे पुनर्जीवित कर सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Evaluate the outcome of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). How can Mission LiFE reinvigorate the NCAP in addressing the issue of air pollution? (Answer in 150 words) 10

National Clean Air Programme was launched to have a focussed attention on reducing the pm2.5 and pm10 levels compared to the 2019 levels, since they are the most intrusive air pollutants.

The outcome of NCAP

① Reduced levels of pm 2.5 and pm 10 on majority of days, as measured at the national level

② NCAP has ensured a basic coordination across different departments
- Pollution control Board
- Industries Regulation
- Transport - pollution metering of vehicles

③ It has also created a climate and pollution conscious population

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- products like air purifiers at home, companies developing ACs with PM purifying technology

④ It has tightened regulations on
→ thermal power polluters
→ roadside restaurants polluters
→ brick kilns.

But still there is a lot to do at the air pollution front.

How mission LiFE can reinvigorate NCAP

⇒ Lifestyle for Environment - a people's movement ensures a
→ carbon footprint conscious lifestyle
→ use of more public transport
→ planting more trees for cooling
→ springings of people's associations to coordinate efforts.

Thus, LiFE would propel the efforts already made at NCAP level to ensure India fulfills its promise under Panch Amrit.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. पारिस्थितिक तंत्र पर वनाग्नि के प्रभाव की विवेचना कीजिए। वनाग्नि के खतरे से निपटने में UNEP के फायर रेडी फॉर्मूला के महत्त्व का वर्णन कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Discuss the impact of wildfires on the ecosystem. Describe the significance of the UNEP's Fire Ready Formula in dealing with the menace of wildfires. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Wildfires, one of the rising phenomenon in the climate change era (the US, canada, Europe), has varied impacts on the ecosystem. In India, around 30% of forests are p. fire prone (ISFR).

Impact of wildfires on the ecosystem

① Destruction of vegetation

② Also leads to ash deposition on the soil → though increases fertility to some extent
→ excess leads to land degradation and pollution

③ Loss of biodiversity - the flora and fauna of the destroyed ecosystem moves out
→ micro organisms in the soil are destroyed

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(4) Water bodies in the ecosystem are also polluted with ash run-off and deposition

(5) Destroys the carbon sink, release enormous CO_2 and other gases into the air ecosystem.

In this light, UNEP's fire ready formula would enable communities to be better prepared to deal with wild fires.

The formula:

(1) fire prone zone mapping

(2) Creating buffers between vegetation to reduce fuel supply and increase natural breaks

(3) Human error to be reduced - 9/10 fires in Europe ignited by humans.

(4) fire extinguisher ready - with drones, helicopters

(5) Use of indigenous knowledge

As we continue our race against climate change, it becomes essential to have scientific coordinated efforts.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. हाल ही में, भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) ने लघु उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण यान (SSLV) नामक अपना नया रॉकेट प्रक्षेपित किया। इसके क्या लाभ हैं? आने वाले वर्षों में SSLVs इसरो के लिए कैसे गेम चेंजर सिद्ध हो सकते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Recently, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched its new rocket called Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). What are its advantages? How can SSLVs be a game changer for ISRO in the years to come? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) lifting the spirit of the nation besides the launching of various mission has recently launched a new Small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV).

Advantages of SSLV:

① Indigenous technology
→ launch from our own rockets, earlier we used other nations small launch vehicles

② International standards in designing the SSLV

How can it be a game changer in the coming years

① facilitate International collaboration

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- used SSLV to launch satellites of even developed countries like France.

② Reduced cost from using other nations - could be invested elsewhere

③ Launch of small satellites suiting Indian needs at our own pace

→ Ability to manoeuvre to our needs.

Thus, ISRO with its ever expanding ambition has added new feathers to its launch vehicle kitty which is to benefit India and also the world.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. बायोपाइरेसी विकासशील विश्व के मौजूदा पारंपरिक ज्ञान के लिए प्रमुख चिंता का कारण क्यों है? भारत सरकार द्वारा मौजूदा पारंपरिक भारतीय ज्ञान की सुरक्षा के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Why is biopiracy a cause of great concern to the existing traditional knowledge of the developing world? What steps have been taken by the government of India for protecting the existing traditional Indian knowledge? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Biopiracy is the crime of non-permissive, un-authorised use of genetic and biological information to the disadvantage of the original owners of the information.

Cause of great concern to the existing traditional knowledge of developing world:

① Indigenous knowledge commercialized with no benefits directed to the indigenous community.
→ research on indigenous communities - genetic makeup
→ traditional medicines like Ayurveda, Siddha commercialized

② changing the nature of traditional

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

knowledge
→ disposition for future generation.

③ Destruction of civilizational heritage

Steps taken by the government of India:

① Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on Benefit sharing

② Implementation of Plant Varieties Act

③ Creation of repository of various varieties of cereals

④ Developing genetic mapping of various populations.

There is a need to ensure that that in utilizing the wisdom of the tradition, the benefit accrues to the duly deserved.

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9. असम राइफल्स को पूर्वोत्तर भारत में सीमा प्रबंधन और उग्रवाद से निपटने में किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है? चर्चा कीजिए कि कैसे इन चुनौतियों के समाधान हेतु इस बल के फोकस में बदलाव की आवश्यकता है। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

What are the challenges faced by the Assam Rifles with regard to border management and tackling of insurgency in North-East India? Discuss how these challenges require a reorientation of the force. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Assam Rifles, one of the Border Security forces guarding the Bangladesh, Myanmar Border is also tasked with tackling the insurgency in North-East.

Challenges faced by the Assam Rifles

① Poorly equipped
→ in terms of weapon, uniforms

② Lack of coordinated information sharing with local police
→ duplicacy of efforts
→ missing crucial junctures

③ Adequate support in training missing
→ suiting to the terrain,

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

nature of insurgency - guilla warfare

(3) Inadequate modernisation
→ use of digital technologies, GIS spatial maps.

Need for re-orientation of the force:

(1) Terms of engagement with local police, Armed forces to be clearly defined
(2) Investment and funding — equipment, modernisation
(3) Adequate training suiting to the evolving nature of threat
(4) more integrated checkposts
(5) Coordination with cross-country forces

Thus, with the security of Borders and peace in North East, a new path of development in Amrit kaal is possible

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. अंतरिक्ष में शस्त्र स्थापित करने की होड़ अंतरिक्ष को शस्त्रों के संघर्ष का अगला युद्ध क्षेत्र बनाते हुए जल्द ही उस सीमा को पार कर सकती है जहां से वापस लौटना संभव नहीं होगा। अंतरिक्ष के शस्त्रीकरण के लिए उत्तरदायी संभावित कारण क्या हैं? इसके निहितार्थों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

The race to put weapons in space may soon pass the point of no return making space the next theatre of arms struggle. What are the possible reasons behind the weaponization of space? Discuss its implications. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Weaponization of space is both the use of space for ground civil military operations as well as the emergence of space as the new ground for warfare.

Race to put weapons in space
⇒ as demonstrated by anti-satellite testings by nations
⇒ creation of space division in in armed forces.

Possible reasons behind weaponisation

① Advancement in technology
→ the enabling role of this development
② more and accurate ~~ab~~ knowledge

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about space has been gained

③ Global competition - to match the adversary

④ weak regulations - Outerspace Treaty 1967 is silent on weaponisation of space

⑤ Enormously enhanced capability - need to be stronger.

Implications of this

① Destruction of heritage of space, peaceful uses of space

② kessler syndrome from space debris

③ Uncontrolled nature of warfare - enormous harm to finances.

Efforts such as Artemis Accord, has to be supplemented with modifying Outerspace Treaty 1967, to ensure a responsible use of outerspace.

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11. हाल ही में, जवाहरलाल नेहरू पत्तन (JNP) भारत का पहला 100% लैंडलॉर्ड पोर्ट बन गया है। लैंडलॉर्ड पोर्ट मॉडल से आप क्या समझते हैं? पत्तनों के प्रबंधन में प्रयुक्त विभिन्न मॉडल कौन-से हैं? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) recently became the first 100% Landlord Port of India. What do you understand by the Landlord Port model? What are the different models employed in the management of ports? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Jawaharlal Nehru Port, is one of the busiest ports in India. It also figured in the top 10 ports of the world in the turnaround time category. It recently became the first 100% Landlord Port of India.

Landlord port model:

① In this model,

the [state] ⇒ acts as the landlord of the port and partakes no role in the operations of the port
(the Port Trust India)

A [private player] ⇒ has full control over the operations

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

of the port. It pays the landlord on the revenue sharing arrangement made.

Different models employed in the management of ports in India

① State as both the owner as well as the operator of the port. Ex: Kamarajar Port

② State as the owner of the port as well as the authority over the operations but employs tendered contract or outsourcing of operations.

③ The third is the landlord model as described above — where the authority of

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

ownership and operations are split.

Advantages of landlord port model:

① Improves the efficiency of operations
→ as revenue sharing is the basis

② Generates resources for further investment

③ meeting international standards

Nevertheless, there has to be clear rights-obligations framework in place to secure the success of the model. This would go a long way in addressing the burdensome logistics cost (14%).

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12. भारत में कृषि मशीनीकरण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए शुरू की गई कृषि मशीनीकरण पर उप-मिशन (SMAM)) योजना के प्रदर्शन का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Analyse the performance of the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme launched to promote farm mechanization in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Farm mechanization, use of machines in farming - tractors, sorting, weeding machines, are expected to increase the productivity by 30% and reduce input costs by 20% (NABARD), and thus paving way for doubling farmers income (Ashok Dalwai).

Performance of Sub-Mission on Agriculture mechanization:

Success:

→ Establishment of Custom Hiring Centers, Mechanization units in villages to promote uberization of agriculture

→ Farm equipment credit - focused credit supply

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Machinery demonstration and training along with state governments.

Challenges:

→ The farm mechanization in India stands @ 45% (NABARD)
→ while that of US is 95%, China is 57%.

→ The farm mechanization market is highly skewed towards tractors
→ 80% of market - tractorization than mechanization

→ Compared to the 86% small and marginal farmers
→ the number of custom Hiring Centres are very low
→ hinders accessibility
→ the flow of credit is also not sufficient.

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→ Research and Development on on low scale technology is lacking

→ given that the average land holding in India is 1.08 hectares (Agri census, '16)

→ Also, farm mechanization needs convergence with other schemes

→ climate Smart Agriculture
→ soil Health card scheme
→ Reducing food wastage.

Thus, as India propels to be the Vishwaguru of this era, it is essentially being developmental freedom to our farmers.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक की अप्रयुक्त क्षमता का दोहन करने और इसके सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में डिजिटलीकरण की क्षमता पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Discuss the potential of digitization in harnessing the untapped potential of the food processing sector and resolving the challenges that it faces. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Food Processing industry, the sun-rise sector, simultaneously enables us to fulfill objectives of doubling farmers income and reducing food wastage (₹96,000 crore annually, NITI Aayog).

Challenges faced by the food processing sector

① lack of scale
→ majority of the food processing units are in the micro category

② Outdated technology
→ lack of sufficient credit to modernize the technology

③ steady source of raw material
→ vagaries of monsoon

④ Logistics cost (@ 14% overall economy)

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→ connectivity between farm to factory.

⑤ Lack of storage facilities to the extent required

⑥ No market intelligence in tapping the foreign markets.

Potential of digitization in harnessing the untapped potential of FPI :

① Formalization of micro food processing industries

→ digitization of processes in the micro-units - seamless integration with the government systems - tax, credit subsidies

② Market intelligence

→ digitally enabled FPI can get market inputs real-time plus develop market analysis

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(3) Helps forecast their raw material arrival and the market requirement.

(4) Enables a scientific storage system and management

(5) Helps in product development to meet the modern demands of consumers

(6) Enables collaborations with foreign markets for increased market access.

Thus, there is the need to bridge the digital gap between small-scale units, to ensure that the benefits of digitization reaches all.

Handholding of small units is also essential to fully realize the potential of FPI in this Amrit Kaal

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. भारत में भू-अभिलेखों के आधुनिकीकरण का क्या महत्व है? इस आलोक में राष्ट्रीय जेनेरिक दस्तावेज पंजीकरण प्रणाली (NGDRS) की विशेषताओं का वर्णन कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

What is the significance of land record modernization in India? In this light, state the features of the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS). (Answer in 250 words) 15

Land Records in India, with the potential to transform the developmental trajectory of especially the rural India, is currently in the old ~~recog~~ record management era - in papers with no proper of Records of Rights.

Significance of Land Record modernization in India:

① creating a land records database
→ through uniquely geo-mapping of land parcels, linking it with Aadhar
→ enables completely digitized modern land record

② A precursor to this is the clear

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Settlement of land titles
→ which would reduce the civil litigation in courts

③ Enables credit facilitation to farmers → as collateral

④ Remove the information assymetry in the real estate market
→ with modernized land records having potential to develop a transparent organized market for land
→ leads to price discovery for land.

In this light,

The features of the National Generic Document Registration System:

→ A model document system
→ has feature to customize to the requirements of the state

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ inbuilt vernacular languages
→ to facilitate wide coverage

→ facility of GIS mapping
→ realtime capturing of land coordinates
→ potential to calculate the Registration rates basic the location of the land
→ reduced corruption.

→ linkage with National land records database
→ removes information gap.

Thus, clubbed with other initiatives like SWAMITVA scheme, these steps are ushering in a new era of land management, thereby drilling the the seeds for second generation land reforms.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. 'प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना' की शुरुआत से ही प्रौद्योगिकी के उपयोग ने इसकी सफलता में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। चर्चा कीजिए। इस योजना को अधिक किसान-अनुकूल बनाने के लिए और क्या बदलाव किए जा सकते हैं? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The use of technology has played a key role in the success of the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' since its inception. Discuss. What further changes can be incorporated to make the scheme more farmer-friendly? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was launched to secure the farmers against a wide variety of risks - including local risks and post-harvest losses.

Success of PMFBY - with technology as the key role:

① Scheme envisaged usage of technology to measure the crop losses
→ using drones, Geo-spatial

- with around 1.2 lakh crore disbursed to farmers (ES 23), the success of these technologies is evident.

② Technology in the digitization space has also brought in dividends

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Varied premium rates for small and marginal farmers applied seamlessly

→ premium calculation based on crops

③ Technology in tracking and monitoring

→ Tracking of State governments disbursal of its share

→ revealed delays or no-show.

→ Tracking of benefits disbursal – its timeliness has shown lacunas.

The share of small, marginal and vulnerable farmers in PMFBY has increased over 280% since its inception (ES 23).

Nevertheless, there are few improvements that can be made.

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Changes needed to make it more farmer-friendly

① Timely assessment of crop losses by the state government
→ compulsory use of technology
→ penalties for delay

② Timely disbursement of benefits to farmers - penalties for delay

③ A stratified grievance-redressal mechanism
→ Central, State and District level to ensure effective service delivery

④ Generation of awareness to ensure 100% coverage - through extension centers.

As MS Swaminathan quipped, if agriculture goes wrong in our country then nothing can go right. Thus, it becomes necessary to fortify farmers against losses.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. चर्चा कीजिए कि कैसे नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा की ओर ट्रांजिशन भारत में महिलाओं के जीवन को बदलने और उनकी पूर्ण क्षमता को उजागर करने का सामर्थ्य रखता है। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Discuss how the transition towards renewable energy has the potential to transform the lives of women in India and unlock their potential. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India is on a concerted effort to transition towards renewable energy (currently 43%) with the the aim of 50% by 2030 (Panch Amrit)

Transition towards renewable energy
- potential to transform lives of women

① Women as energy producers
→ schemes like PM-KUSUM combined with the phenomenon of feminization of agriculture
→ makes women as energy producers.

⇒ increases their livelihood opportunities

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② Decentralized nature of renewable energy

⇒ Coimbatore Panchayat generated revenue from wind energy → easily replicable in SHGs, micro-finance, cooperatives of women → with targeted credit facility

③ Natural Biogas plants in the rural could be transformed on modern lines - with women at the center.

④ It also enables them to look beyond their constraints

→ increased access to power - flourish cottage industries and tailoring

It has the potential to make women truly empowered and dignified.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Nevertheless, some shortcomings and the parallel reforms that need to be considered include:

① No women focus in renewable energy ⇒ Earmark funds & flagship schemes to women-led enterprises

② Leveraging existing women's groups for knowledge transfer

③ Demonstration, credit facility, handholding ⇒ all bundled into a targeted scheme.

Thus, as we embark on a new trajectory in development, it is essential to utilize the potential of women simultaneously powering them (SDG5).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. जलवायु परिवर्तन भारत द्वारा भुखमरी और कुपोषण दूर करने में सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों में कैसे वृद्धि कर रहा है? 2030 तक शून्य भुखमरी प्राप्त करने की भारत की प्रतिबद्धता के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

How does climate change exacerbate the challenges that India faces in eliminating hunger and malnutrition? Discuss in the context of India's commitment to achieve zero hunger by 2030. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India has a commitment to achieve zero Hunger by 2030 (SDG 2). However, the current status of malnutrition,

NFHS 5 ⇒ stunted ~35%
wasted 19.3%
undernourished ~32%

leaves a lot to be desired.

Climate Change exacerbates the challenges in eliminating this:

① Agriculture failure
→ failure of crops on account of drought, monsoon changes
→ reduced nutritional food supply

② Climate Disasters
→ increased instances of floods, cloudbursts, heatwaves

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

have the children as the most vulnerable population

→ broken supply chains,

→ impoverished families

all results in hunger and malnutrition

③ Climate change impact on water

→ water stress leading poor sanitation, drinking water facilities

④ Climate change induced violence displacements

→ Disruption in government service in change of place

⑤ Reduced capacity of states to service welfare schemes

→ RBI - India needs 2% of GDP annual for green financing

⑥ Globalized nature of climate change

→ rising sea level disrupting

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

coastal efforts in reducing hunger.

India needs a renewed focus on reducing eliminating hunger and malnutrition

(1) A focused policy on internal climate refugees
→ One nation One ration card to ensure continued PDS

(2) Leveraging external financing, CSR
→ to increase spending

(3) Convergence of efforts
→ ministry of Climate Change
→ ministry of Health
→ ministry of Women and Child
→ ministry of Drinking water and sanitation

(4) International experiences - UNESCO case studies.

Thus, this an effort focussed beyond necessity to ensure real freedom, as envisaged in our civilizational history - Destroy the world, if one man goes hungry (Subramaniya Bharti).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. आतंकवाद के वित्तपोषण पर अंकुश लगाने हेतु किए गए अनेक प्रयासों के बावजूद अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय के लिए यह एक मुख्य चुनौती बना हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Terrorism financing continues to remain a major challenge for the international community despite several efforts to curb it. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Terrorism financing - financing directly or indirectly for terrorist activities - that are aimed at creating a huge destruction in the lives of people besides instilling a sense of fear for various causes.

Efforts taken to curb terrorism financing

① Financial Action Task Force
→ various standards established for financial institutions to ensure effective KYC checks
→ guidelines on money laundering to curb the same in funding

② UN Office on Organised Crime
→ the Vienna Convention, as the

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

starting point, the office has taken efforts to coordinate across jurisdictions.

③ various UNSC resolutions - exerting pressure on nations to strengthen their efforts

④ BASEL committee - also asked banks to have a uniform position against terror financing.

⑤ European Cryptocurrency regulation → to block the anonymised financing.

Still, terror financing remains a major challenge:

① Organised Crime and money laundering still looming large - UNODC - 2-5·1·9 global annual GDP is laundered.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(2) New avenues and markets for organised crime and terrorism

→ Recently NSA arrested people investing in cryptocurrency funds, that was indirectly funding terrorism

→ emergence of dark web, dark net

→ parcel, delivery services for drug trade (instances in US)

→ sophisticated cyber threat, cyber hacks employed to extort

(3) Ineffective efforts at the global level

→ tussle between financial confidentiality and disclosure

→ poorly implemented KYC norms.

Thus, there is a need for concerted coordinated global effort to ensure this menace is stopped.

"Atmano mokshartham Jagadhitaya"

– for our own liberation as well as the liberation of others

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) में होने वाली प्रगति से राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से अवसरों के साथ-साथ चुनौतियों में भी वृद्धि होगी। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) will progressively multiply the opportunities as well as challenges from the national security perspective. Discuss in the context of India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Artificial intelligence, built on machine learning and deep learning has come to generate its own intellisence. This kind of AI has great potentialities as well as challenges.

Advances in AI - opportunities in Nation Security

① Multiply our Armed forces capability

→ AI can be used for reconnaissance, tactical understandings

→ especially in the era of theatricisation currently underway

→ Offensive AI weapons could be developed

→ remote, non-human warfare

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② Managing cyber security -
cuts across all other security needs
→ AI can be deployed to identify and dislodge cyber threats
→ develop cyber lakshman rekha

③ In Internal security
→ AI used along with geospatial technologies to forestall Naxalite attempts against security personnel.

Advances in AI - Challenges in National security

① Complications to the traditional war ethics
→ deciding the proportionate use of power needs human intelligence
→ fixing of accountability for machines, unintended direction/consequences of AI.

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② AI is still evolving - fear of AI taking over humans - need for cautious, incremental approach
→ its negative externalities yet to be known

③ Concerns of privacy, biases in data learning
→ prejudiced AI

④ Unbridled race in global AI - creates more security complications than it saves
→ state actors launching cyber attacks (Russia-Ukraine war)

Thus, any technology is a tool, there is the need to temper it to the ethical values of humans. In the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, there is need for global coordination in regulating AI.